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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLP #2724 2831955
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 101955Z OCT 06
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0824
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6168
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 3482
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7343
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4605
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1859
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 1900
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4069
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 4495
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 9070
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL

UNCLAS LA PAZ 002724

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [BL](#)
SUBJECT: TRANSIT STRIKE CONTINUES

¶1. (U) La Paz public transportation workers began a 24-hour strike October 9 to protest La Paz Mayor Juan del Granado's plan for redirecting downtown traffic. The city implemented the plan October 6 to improve traffic flows; transportation workers complain that the new routes are causing confusion and loss of income. Late October 9, after the municipality announced that it would not withdraw its plan for the improvements, workers extended the strike "indefinitely." While the strike has been mostly pacific, there have been isolated cases of physical violence or property damage (mostly tire slashing) against bus drivers who attempted to pass strikers' blockades.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: Negotiations continue October 10 to resolve the La Paz strike, but even if successful, a larger nationwide transportation strike (including public and private transportation) is scheduled for October 12-13. The nationwide strike will protest the GOB's possible legalization of over 50,000 illegally imported autos, which would boost GOB revenue (due to a delayed importation tax) but would flood the auto market, resulting in unwanted competition for transportation workers. The Embassy is operating with essential personnel October 10 and is providing transportation for all employees. We will continue to monitor these strikes closely. End comment.
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